AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 12, 16 and 17; cancel Claim 2, 3, 6, 10, 11, 15 and 19; and add new Claims 21 – 26 such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1. [Currently Amended] A slide assembly for use with a molding or casting system comprising:

a base removably mountable to a stationary die block half;

a slide engagable with the base such that the slide is movable relative to the base in a first direction and a second direction, wherein the first direction is opposite of the second direction, the slide comprising a slot having a first flat surface and extending centrally through the slide at an angle oblique to the rails; and

a cam lever mountable to a moveable die block half and removably insertable into the slide during a molding or casting cycle, the cam lever comprising:

a head for securing to the movable die block; and

a tail having a second flat surface extending from the head at the oblique angle for insertion into the slot;

wherein the cam lever is adapted to move the slide relative to the base through cam action and wherein the first flat surface of the tail contacts the second flat surface of the slot to retain position of the slide relative to the stationary die block half during the molding or casting cycle.

2. [Canceled]

3. [Canceled]

4. [Original] The slide assembly of claim 2, ~~wherein the cam lever comprises a head and a tail positioned at an angle to the head,~~ wherein the oblique angle between the head and the second flat surface of the tail is greater than one-hundred-and-thirty degrees and less than one-hundred-and-sixty degrees.

5. [Original] The slide assembly of claim 1 further comprising a first circuit and a second circuit coupled to the base, wherein the first circuit is adapted to provide signals to limit the movement of the slide relative to the base in the first direction, and wherein the second circuit is adapted to provide signals to limit the movement of the slide relative to the base in the second direction.

6. [Canceled]

7. [Original] The slide assembly of claim 1, wherein the cam lever extends through the base when the cam lever is inserted through the slide for preventing the slide moving relative to the base.

8. [Currently Amended] The slide assembly of claim 1 further comprising a hydraulic coupling connected to the slide for retaining position of the slide relative to the stationary die block half ~~moving the slide relative to the base~~ through hydraulic power.

9. [Currently Amended] A slide assembly for use with a molding or casting system comprising:

a base adapted to be mounted to a first die block half, the base comprising a pair of inward facing tracks;

a slide having a pair of outward facing rails adapted to engage the tracks of the base for allowing the slide to move in a first direction and a second direction relative to the base;

a face plate attached to the slide for receiving a core pattern; and

a cam lever for mounting to a movable, second die half, the cam lever comprising a head for fastening to the movable die half and a tail having a flat face positioned at an angle to the head, wherein the cam lever is removably insertable into the slide for moving the slide relative to the base through cam action;

wherein the cam lever is adapted to move the slide in the first direction relative to the base as the cam lever is inserted into the slide[[,]] when the movable, second die half is brought into contact with the first die half such that the core pattern is inserted into a core between the first die block half and the second die block half, and the flat face of

the tail of the cam lever holds the slide fixed against the first die half; and

wherein the cam lever is adapted to move the slide in the second direction relative to the base as the cam lever is removed from the slide when the movable, second die half is pulled away from the first die half.

10. [Canceled]

11. [Canceled]

12. [Currently Amended] The slide assembly of claim 9 further comprising a hydraulic coupling connected to the slide for retaining position of the slide relative to the first die block half ~~moving the slide relative to the base~~ through hydraulic power.

13. [Original] The slide assembly of claim 9 further comprising a first circuit and a second circuit coupled to the base, wherein the first circuit is adapted to provide signals to limit the movement of the slide relative to the base in the first direction, and wherein the second circuit is adapted to provide signals to limit the movement of the slide relative to the base in the second direction.

14. [Original] The slide assembly of claim 9, wherein the tail of the cam lever extends through the base when the cam lever is inserted through the slide for preventing the slide moving relative to the base.

15. [Canceled]

16. [Currently Amended] A slide assembly for use with a molding or casting system comprising:

a base adapted to be mounted to a first die block half;

a slide engagable with the base such that the slide is movable relative to the base;

a cam lever adapted to be connected to a second die block half and removably insertable into the slide for moving the slide relative to the base through cam action and having a

flat surface for immobilizing the slide during a molding or casting cycle; and

a circuit coupled to the base and adapted to provide signals to limit the movement of the slide relative to the base.

17. [Currently Amended] The slide assembly of claim 16 further comprising a hydraulic coupling connected to the slide for retaining position of the slide relative to the stationary die block half ~~moving the slide relative to the base~~ through hydraulic power.

18. [Original] The slide assembly of claim 16, wherein the tail of the cam lever extends through the base when the cam lever is inserted through the slide for preventing the slide moving relative to the base.

19. [Canceled]

20. [Original] The slide assembly of claim 16, wherein the cam lever comprises a head and a tail positioned at an angle to the head, wherein the angle between the head and the tail is greater than one-hundred-and-thirty degrees and less than one-hundred-and-sixty degrees.

21. [New] The slide assembly of claim 1 wherein the tail of the cam lever comprises a quadrangular cross section.

22. [New] The slide assembly of claim 1 wherein the slide includes a removable faceplate adapted for receiving various mold patterns for insertion into the core.

23. [New] The slide assembly of claim 22 wherein the first flat surface of the tail leverages the faceplate against the stationary die block half to immobilize the slide during the molding or casting process.

24. [New] The slide assembly of claim 1 wherein the oblique angle between the head and the flat

face of the tail is approximately one-hundred-and-fifty-five degrees.

25. [New] The slide assembly of claim 9 wherein the tail of the cam lever comprises a quadrangular cross section to provide increased surface area for holding the slide fixed against the stationary, first die half.

26. [New] The slide assembly of claim 16 wherein the flat surface of the cam lever retains the slide by pushing flush against the slide to pin the slide against the first die block half.